Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome*, sensu lato
10/01/1840 Macquarie Island

The American Exploring Expedition recorded the Rockhopper Penguin at Macquarie Island in 1840 (Peale 1848). Midshipman Eld, of the *Peacock*, gave the following vivid account of his visit on the 10th January:

“Although I had heard so often of the great quantity of birds on the uninhabited islands, I was not prepared to see them in such myriads as here. The whole sides of the rugged hills were literally covered with them. I ascended a crag to what I thought was their principal roost, and at every step my astonishment increased. It was impossible to hear one self’s speak. These penguins are the *Eudyptes chrysocome*. The birds stand erect in rows, which gives them the appearance of Lilliputian soldiers”.

It was at that time assumed to be the same form as the Rockhopper Penguin found in the Atlantic. Tennyson & Miskelly (1989) commented that the three forms of Rockhopper were morphologically distinct, with disjunct breeding ranges. Banks et al. (2006) genetically analysed the three Rockhopper taxa and considered that each was a species.

Western Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome* (Forster 1781), Vagrant (2)
20/12/1985 The Snares

A.J.D. Tennyson and C.M. Miskelly (1989) reported the first two birds to be found in the New Zealand region. The first bird was standing at an empty nest in a colony of Snares Crested Penguins above HoHo Bay in December 1985. The same bird (a probable adult male) was seen again during October 1986–January 1987. A presumed adult female was seen on 17 November 1986 in Station Cove. These two birds visited (or were resident) at the Snares until February 2000. These penguins were c.7500 km from their breeding colonies at Cape Horn and the Falklands.

Moseley’s Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi* (Mathews & Iredale 1921), Vagrant (7)
26/8/1968 Rangatira, Chatham Island

Don Merton caught and photographed the first bird in August 1968 on Rangatira (= South East Island) (Moors & Merton 1984). Apparently the same bird was seen two years later in November 1970 in the exact same place. On 14/11/1984, a bird was found at Moa Point, Wellington. Birds were also seen in February 1993, November 1998, March 2001 and January 2004 at the Chathams. The long pendulous luxuriant head-plumes are especially characteristic of this species.

Eastern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes filholi* (Hutton 1879), Native
October 1874 Campbell Island

Hutton (1878) described the Eastern Rockhopper from a specimen obtained at Campbell Island in 1874. This bird was presented to the Otago Museum by one of the officers of the French War Steamer, *Vire*, who obtained it at Campbell Island, in 1874. I have named it in remembrance of Dr. H. Filhol, the accomplished and energetic naturalist of the French Transit of Venus Expedition, who visited that island in 1874, in the *Vire* (Hutton 1878).

The specimen was presented to the Otago Museum by an officer of the French ship *Vire*, which had visited Campbell Island to observe the transit of Venus.
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